MARYLAND AGRI-FACTS





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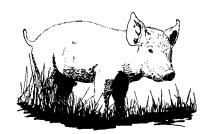
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HOGS

The inventory of all hogs and pigs in Maryland was estimated at 45,000 head for December 1, 2002. This is down 13% from 2001. The drop occurred in hogs being raised for market, which declined from 45,000 hogs in 2001 to 38,000 hogs in 2002. The breeding inventory of 7,000 head remained unchanged from 2001. The number of operations with hogs in Maryland fell from 520 to 510 hog operations.

CONTENTS

Agricultural Prices Chickens and Eggs Hogs



Hogs and Pigs	s, Decemb	er 1, 2001 aı	nd 2002					
Item	DELAWARE		MARYLAND Thousand Head			UNITED STATES		
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002		
Breeding Inventory	5	5	7	7	6,209	6,012		
Market-Under 60 lbs	8	6	14	10	19,908	19,461		
60-119 lbs	6	4	7	7	12,924	12,919		
120-179 lbs	3	4	12	9	10,744	10,736		
180 lbs & over	4	4	12	12	10,018	9,815		
Total Market	21	18	45	38	53,594	52,931		
Total All Hogs	26	22	52	45	59,804	58,943		
				Actual Numbers				
No. Of Hog Operations ¹	130	130	520	510	80,880	75,350		

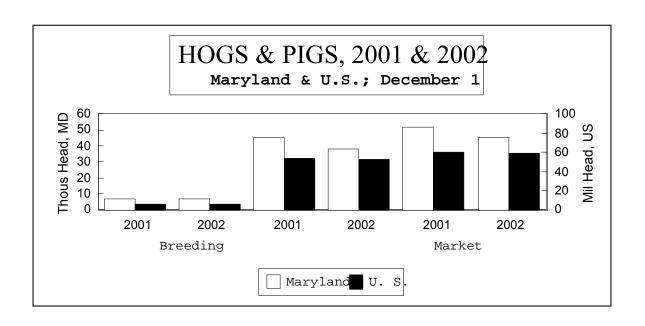
¹ An operation is any place having one or more head of hogs and pigs on hand at any time during the year.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2002, was 58.9 million head. This was 1 percent below December 1, 2001, and 2 percent below September 1, 2002. Breeding inventory, at 6.01 million head, was down 3 percent from December 1, 2001, and down 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 52.9 million head, was 1 percent below last year and 2 percent below last quarter. The September-November 2002 U.S. pig crop, at 24.9 million head, was 2percent less than 2001 and 1 percent less than 2000. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.82 million head, 2 percent below last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs per litter of 8.83 pigs saved per litter for the September-November 2002 period, compared to 8.82 pigs last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs. U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.81 million sows farrow during the December 2002 -

February 2003 quarter, 1 percent below the actual farrowings during the same period in 2002, and 2 percent above 2001. Intended farrowings for March-May 2003, at 2.85 million sows, are 3 percent above the same period in 2002 and 1 percent below 2001. The number of hog operations with hogs totaled 75,350 during 2002 during 2002, down 7 percent from last year and 13 percent below 2000. Places with 2,000 or more hogs on hand accounted for 10 percent of the operations and 75 percent of the inventory. This is the first time operations with inventories over 2,000 head have controlled over 75 percent or more of the total inventory. The number of operations with over 5,000 head of inventory at, 2,258, accounted for 53.0 percent of the total inventory, up from 52.0 percent a year ago. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by these over 5,000 head operations, but raised by contractees, accounted for 33 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from last year.

	Sows Farrowed	, Pigs per Lit	ter and Pig	Crop Uni	ted States 20	01-2002
	So	ws	Pigs Per Litter		Pig Crop	
United States	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	Thousand Head		Number		Thousand Head	
December -February 1	2,748	2,836	8.72	8.74	23,963	24,794
March - May	2,870	2,943	8.89	8.82	25,509	25,959
June - August	2,878	2,833	8.87	8.87	25,539	25,114
September - November	2,889	2,817	8.82	8.83	25,492	24,892

¹ December preceding year.



AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Prices received for the month of December were down from the previous month for all crops except for barley. The barley price was up eleven cents to a price of \$1.71 per bushel. The wheat price decreased by twenty-five cents to \$3.41 per bushel. Soybeans moved down seven cents per bushel from last month's price of \$5.78 and corn was down six cents to \$2.19

per bushel. On the other hand livestock prices appeared to be mixed. Calf prices were up \$9.60 to \$86.60 per cwt but beef cattle had a \$1.50 decrease to \$62.90 per cwt. Hog prices decreased to \$33.00 per cwt.

		Maryland and Delaware			United States			
Commodity	Unit	DEC 2001	NOV 2002	DEC 2002	DEC 2001	NOV 2002	DEC 2002 1	Parity Price
					Dollars			
Wheat, Winter	\mathbf{BU}	2.64	3.66	3.41	2.78	4.16	3.83	9.67
Corn	\mathbf{BU}	2.19	2.85	2.81	1.98	2.27	2.29	6.55
Barley	BU	1.42	1.60	1.71	2.21	2.79	2.85	6.43
Soybeans	\mathbf{BU}	4.09	5.78	5.71	4.20	5.46	5.48	14.30
All Hay, Baled	TON	141.00	154.00	176.00	95.60	93.60	92.60	
All Beef Cattle	CWT	62.90	64.40	62.90	64.80	67.60	70.20	160.00
Calves	CWT	86.60	77.00	86.60	101.00	88.20	93.60	212.00
Hogs	CWT	33.80	28.70	33.00	33.30	27.80	30.00	103.00
Milk, Fluid MKT	CWT	16.30	N/A	N/A	13.50	11.90	11.90	33.20
Chickens 1	LB	0.085	.086	.082				
Broilers	LB	0.325	.555	.565	0.370	0.290	0.290	
Turkeys, Live	LB				0.387	0.395	0.384	0.972
Eggs, Market	DOZ	0.502	.623	.581	0.410	0.563	0.519	1.56

¹ Mid-Month Forecast, Entire Month Price.

INDEX OF PRICES RECEIVED						
INDEX AND RATIOS	UNI	TED STATES 1990 - 9	92 =100			
	DEC	NOV	DEC			
	2001	2002*	2002			
All Farm Products	93	*98	97			
All Crops	90	104	102			
Feed Grain & Hay	92	*103	105			
Oil- Bearing Crops	78	*97	98			
Fruits & Nuts	91	114	95			
All Livestock and Livestock Products	96	*90	91			
Meat Animals	85	*85	88			
Dairy Products	103	90	91			
Poultry and Eggs	109	98	96			
Ratio 1/	76	78	78			
Prices Paid Index	122	125	125			

^{*}Revised

^{1/} Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

CHICKENS AND EGGS

Maryland laying flocks produced 79 million eggs during November 2002 of which 76 million were table eggs and 3 million were hatching eggs. The average rate of lay was 79.1%. The average number of layers on hand

during November 2002 was 3,285,000. On December 1, 2002, no layers were being forced molted and 51.0% of all layers in Maryland had been through a molt.

Eggs and Layers: November 2001-2002							
Item	2001	2002	2002/2001				
Eggs Produced During November	Mil	Percent					
U.S. Maryland	7,191 78	7,246 79	101 113				
Layers, Average Number During November	Thousand						
U.S. Maryland	377,915 3,236	338,593 3,285	90 102				
Eggs / 100 Layers During November	Number						
U.S. Maryland	2,128 2,410	2,140 2,405	101 100				

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